

the subject of practicable government, and attempt to substitute a new and untried system (however true it may be in its foundation and unexceptionable in its principles) into the place of that, which a long succession of ages has modelled, improved, and confirmed, it is much to be doubted, whether any society would profit by the change. The habits of men being formed upon practice, do not fit themselves so immediately and so aptly to the new system, as to do justice to the experiment, or to direct it to the true end and object of its introduction.

In the first establishment of every system of government there must be many defects, which time and experience will lessen, and have often removed. It is almost an axiom in politics, that a constitution can never be made perfect at its creation: the frequent alterations in men, the subject to which all governments must be adapted, call for alterations of a similar kind in the laws which are to direct them. But we are told, that the principles of a free government are always the same; and to this assertion we are referred for a full justification of the present claim.

The subject is not new—In the beginning of this century Mr. Molyneux, in an elaborate and very learned treatise, undertook to prove that Ireland had never subscribed to the superintendance or controul claimed by the British Parliament. He admitted the usage, although in some instances he attempted to explain away the acquiescence of Ireland upon other and independent grounds.

The author of the “ Observations upon the doctrine laid down by Sir William Blackstone respecting the extent of the power of the British parliament, particularly with relation to Ireland,”  
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